



CLEAN AIR QUARTERLY

Spring Wrap Up 2008

Volume 4, Issue 2

Ozone Season is Here First Air Alert Issued

The first Air Quality Alert of the 2007 season was issued for May 25 due to unhealthy levels of ground-level ozone.

As we begin to move into the warmer stagnant weather patterns that are common in Middle Tennessee during the months of May through August, we will no doubt see more alerts issued.

More stringent national ambient air quality standards issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in April of this year will also increase the likelihood of air alerts this season.

For more information about air quality or to sign up for EnviroFlash Air Alerts by e-mail, please visit www.CleanAirPartnership.info.

Spots Available on CAP Board of Directors

Are you looking for a way to become more involved in the efforts to improve Middle Tennessee's air quality? If your answer is yes, then the Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee needs you!

Spots are still available on the Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee Board of Directors. Specifically needed are members of the private business sector and people who are experienced with working with non-profits.

For more information, please contact Joan Barnfield, board nominating committee chair, at joan.barnfield@state.tn.us or Melissa Stevens, CAP communications director at melissa@cleanairpartnership.info.

Nashville MPO Gears Up for Bike/Pedestrian Study

The Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is set to kick off a regional bicycle and pedestrian study in June with the help of RPM Transportation.

The study will examine existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the MPO five-county region, and will look at regional destinations that could be served by bicycle and pedestrian facilities such as schools, libraries, employment facilities, shopping centers and residential areas.

The study will estimate demand for bike and pedestrian facilities and will rank the proposed facilities based on that demand, ease of building and cost. The study will be guided by a regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee who will assist MPO staff and consultants with identifying bicycle and pedestrian facility priorities within the region.

The study is expected to take approximately 10-12 months to complete. For more information, please contact the Nashville Area MPO at 615-862-7211 or e-mail leslie.meehan@nashville.gov.

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CAP Helps Lipscomb Elementary School Earn Its Green Flag

On May 16, David Lipscomb Elementary School received their Green Flag from the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Green Schools program. Only two other schools in the state have received the distinction of being recognized as a Performer Level Green School, and Lipscomb is the first private school to do so.

The Green Schools Program is the schools' branch of the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership (TP3). Members can be public or private K-12 schools, colleges, universities, technology, or special education schools. Green Schools involve students in campus and community projects that reduce waste, conserve energy and water, decrease hazardous chemicals, improve air quality, and create wildlife habitat. By publicizing successful projects, Green Schools raise environmental awareness among students, staff, parents, and the local community.

Lipscomb Elementary enrolls approximately 380 students. Thirty-one students suffer from asthma, and 45 students and several staff members are regularly plagued with allergies. Because so many students suffer with these illnesses, the school designated April as 'Clean Air Month' and focused on air quality educa-



CAP Board Chair Laura Artates uses several sheets of colored paper to teach the students about the Air Quality Index.

tion. A science lab titled, "Case of the Green Feathers," demonstrated how allergens, indoor and outdoor air pollutants affect different people.

Among the activities planned for Lipscomb's Clean Air Month, CAP's own board chair, Laura Artates, conducted an air quality workshop with second graders. Through role-playing, students learned how ozone molecules form and a discussion about the Air Quality Index led to brainstorming about ways to obtain cleaner air.

Students now understand that exhaust from the cars idling in front of the school every morning and afternoon during pick up and drop off are polluting the atmosphere around the school.

On a sunny afternoon, when it was easy to see emissions pouring from tailpipes, four second graders counted approximately 200 cars during one hour of regular dismissal. Fumes filled the air and infiltrated the building as doors were opened and closed.

The students decided that this problem needed attention. As a result, the school is now brainstorming ideas to reduce air pollution, such as carpooling and establishing a no-idle zone outside school.



The second graders at David Lipscomb Elementary learn how ground level ozone and particle pollution can cause or worsen health problems like asthma.

Hybrid Buses to Hit the Streets by Year's End



Hybrid-electric buses similar to this one by North American Bus Industries will soon be added to MTA's fleet.

Nashvillians will soon see some lean, green transit options at local bus stops. In response to sky-rocketing diesel costs and an increase in the public's demand for greener transportation options, MTA has invested nearly \$850,000 of its federal grant money designated for capital expenditures on six 100-passenger hybrid-electric buses. The 60-foot buses should hit the streets at the end of the year.

"They get better fuel mileage, carry almost twice the people as the 40-foot bus and save on maintenance costs. It's a good thing all around," Bob Baulsir, MTA Chief Operating Officer told *The Tennessean* in a June 1 article.

According to Gillig Corporation, a bus manufacturing company based near San Francisco, approximately 20 percent of the orders they currently receive are for hybrids. This is a big jump since the technology was first introduced to the transit industry in 2001.

MTA's hybrid buses are powered by an electric motor and a diesel engine working together to move the wheels. Hybrid technology is perfect for the stop-and-go traffic along Nashville's city bus routes and should save 30 to 40 percent in fuel costs. The buses not only save fuel, they also reduce emissions because diesel is not used when the bus is started.

MTA says it plans to add more hybrids if additional funding for capital investments becomes available.

Pedal on Over to the Clif Bar 2-Mile Challenge Event

Looking for something different to do after work? Then bike over to The Belcourt Theatre on Tuesday, June 17 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. to take in the sights and sounds of the movie "Seasons" (www.thecollectivefilm.com), brought to you by Walk/Bike Nashville and The Clif Bar 2-Mile Challenge!

The movie is free; however, a donation is welcomed and appreciated to help Walk/Bike Nashville keep programs growing for a safer more bike friendly city.

Did you know 40 percent of United States urban travel is two miles or less? Be sure and sign up to take the Clif Bar 2-Mile Challenge to fight global warming. The bio-diesel powered Clif Bar 2MC bus will be on site to help educate everyone on the benefits of riding your bike within two miles of your home or work to conduct errands versus driving!

Those participating in the two-mile challenge will help all of us cut down on our carbon footprints. As an added bonus, every one who sign ups to take the challenge will have a chance to win some raffle prizes!

While you're there don't forget to grab your Clif Bar sample to fuel up with for your ride home after the movie!

Connecting Car Care and Air



Melissa Stevens, CAP communications director, sets up the booth at the Nashville Sounds Car Care Night.

Middle Tennessee baseball fans got a chance to learn how proper car maintenance can have a positive impact on our area's air quality at an event sponsored by the Nashville Sounds and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

Gas Saving Roundup - A guide to saving a buck or twenty

By Sam Davidson, CoolPeopleCare.org
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We've shared with you quite a few ways to save gas in our brief existence. And while the primary motivation of doing so is environmental, it's always nice to save some extra cash, too. So, here you are – seven ways to save gas.



Check your tire pressure and gas cap.

About 17 percent of all gas caps don't properly fit (or are missing), which amounts to about nine million barrels of oil that are wasted every year. To make sure you beat these odds, check the seals and fittings on your gas cap, and always tighten it properly after refueling. A properly fitting gas cap means fumes won't be escaping and will ensure you're driving safely out there.



Don't idle.

All around the world, people are in search of the answer to a very important question: When you're driving your car, but not going anywhere, should you shut off the engine, or keep it running? We've done the research, and the judges say: if you're going to be idling for more than a minute, you will save gas by shutting your engine off. So, if you're waiting to pick someone up, standing by while the train passes, or playing chauffeur while a friend runs in somewhere, you'll conserve fuel (and money and emissions) by turning off your car.



Learn the rules of AC.

When driving in traffic, roll down your car windows instead of using the AC, which will cause you to burn extra fuel. But, keep them up when traveling on the highway. At higher speeds, open windows add drag and reduce gas mileage by up to 10 percent.



Start your car last.

It's very tempting and quite habitual for us to start our cars right when we hop in. Then, we put on the seat belt, fiddle with the mirrors, find a radio station, take swig of coffee, and then head out. And even though it doesn't seem like a long time, any extra seconds spent idling are seconds wasting gas, burning money, and harming the environment. The next time you get ready to get going, start the car last. By applying a proper order to your pre-drive routine, you'll be doing the environment and your wallet a great service.



Get rid of the junk in your trunk.

Make sure you're not carrying any unnecessary weight in your sedan or minivan. Give your car the once over and take out anything you don't need each day as you take a trip to work. (When exactly was the last time you played golf?) Every 250 extra pounds uses another mile per gallon. Take out what you don't need and store your savings in your trunk instead.



Park as soon as you can.

Instead of circling and circling while you output dirty CO2 into the air, just happily pull in to the first open space you come across. While it may mean you walk a few extra steps, it will ensure that you drive less.

Upcoming Events

Clif Bar 2-Mile Challenge: June 17 @ Belcourt Theater

CAP Board of Directors Meeting: August 21 @ TBA

TN Pollution Prevention Roundtable Conference: Sept. 18-19 @ Montgomery Bell State Park